SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 172

"Divine Judgments Law to the
Children of the New Creation
of God In every branch of his
Zion on the Earth," New Lebanon,
?N.Y., 1859 (Union Village, OHio)

1859
Dec 11
no. 172
Shakers
Ohio
Union Village

Divine Judgments Laid to the Children of the New Creation of God

In every branch of his Empire on the Earth

As the first call of God to his people is to be pure in heart this is the most important trait in the Character of the Children of God,

To obtain this most beautiful of all graces, souls must in simplicity, in humility and faithfulness conform to the laws of God manifest in the gospel of Christ, both in his first and second appearing, which requires a full and free and honest confession to God in presence of his witness of every transgression of the Laws and order of God established in Zion for the protection of souls

Confession of sin is the door of hope

for the mercy, favor, and forgiveness of God, opened by the gospel of Christ for poor lost souls

The world and its manifold influences; the pride and heartiness of man, and his manifold weaknesses in the flesh present a constant barrier to the progress of souls in this purifying work of the cross

The call of God is necessarily frequent & fervent, to every soul in Zion to prepare their vessels by an honest

confession of all sin, to become fit tabernacles for the indwelling of God, the purifyer and justifyer of souls, and the rewarder of all them that diligently seek him.

Through the weakness and depravity of man, there is a constant tendency to an entire neglect of the order of confessing sin, and to the practice of much hypocracy in presenting the condition of the soul to the witness of God.

this is not only mockery to God, but distruction to the soul, the word of God is therefore reveal-ed from Heaven against all such ungodliness and deceit, and teaching a law for the purification of His people, that His Zion may be beautiful and established in right-eousness and a bright shining light of truth to those who sit in darkness.

Therefore O ye beloved inhabitants of Zion, hear the word of the Lord

His Statutes & his judgments
His solemn warning and
his mercies in regard to
his sacred order of
confessing and repenting
of all sin

And thus it is revealed,
One day in each year
shall ye consecrate and
wholly devote to this the
Sacred and Holy Order
of the Lord your God
in cleansing your hands
and purifying your hearts
from all that defileth my
Holy Sanctuary and every
thing that is offensive
in my sight.

Ye shall rise at the fourth
hour in the morning
and at half past four*
unitedly assemble in your
places of Holy Worship, and
there in humble prayer
and fervent supplication
ye shall beseech the Lord
your God to draw nigh
with his arm of protection

Ye shall perform no
labor with your hands
on this day, save that
which is really necessary.

Ye shall not frequent

* Morning Meeting should be
omitted until after meeting

the places of your temporal employment, but ye shall gather together in your dwellings and abide in your own apartments and there retire into the closets of your souls, and diligently search your hearts and review your lives, and prepare yourselves to give a correct account to the Lord your God in presence of His chosen witnesses of all your ways and doings

Ye should not on this day go forth in any

manner of Sacred worship;
but at evening, if the
labors of the day are ended
ye may gather together in
your sacred places, and
sound forth the sincere
and devoted feelings of
your souls, in songs of praise
& prayer and supplication
to the God of your protection

At your evening
meal ye should partake
only of bread and water,
that your souls may remember
the blessings of Heaven that
are multiplied unto you.

Omit this page

And at the close of the of the repeat unitedly repeat the following benediction.

"O Holy Holy Wisdom
We partake of this the blessing of our God in remembrance of thy never ending mercy and in obedience to thy righteous will."

Ye shall also see that the provisions for the brutal creation with which ye are blessed are dealt out to them prudently and sparingly; and it shall be a solemn fast, a day of Holiness unto the Lord your God, and even I your Heavenly Father; will draw near unto my people on this day.

Again hearken unto me O ye dwellers of Zion ye all who have been called ~~only~~ the dearest gospel of Christ and have received faith and

and understanding thereof

If ye are overcome with the spirit of evil and do commit sin, by knowingly and willfully transgressing any of the orders of God given for the protection of Zion, then shall ye come in the presence of the witnesses of your God, and bow your spirits, and these upon your bended knees bring to light, the sin or sins ye have committed, one by one, stating according to the best of your remembrance

the time and place in
which they were committed
exposing every known
transgression of the Holy
Laws of God to Zion, and
all that brings death and
darkness upon the soul
Ye will then be pre-
pared to ask in humiliation
the mercy and favor of
the Lord your God and of
his faithful witnesses, and
if ye possess a broken heart
clothed with sorrow and
true repentance then shall
the witness of God speak
words of comfort

unto you, and your sins shall be forgiven you.

But if ye have not sinned or willfully transgressed any of the Laws of Zion, then go ye before my witness & saith the Lord, and humbly ask their blessing and then make known the true state of your souls Then shall ye receive my blessing, and be able to feel the love of God, for souls not so favored as you are

But souls who posess not a heart of true repentance, must go their way and labor in deep tribulation of soul until they have gained that measure of Godly sorrow, which will enable them to feel the depth of their loss.

And I say unto all such as dig deep to hide from my witnesses the wickedness and uncleanness of their hands and hearts, who bring not to light their evil ways and doings remember the Lord your God will withhold from

you his blessing and protection

O ye children of my Zion saith the Lord, and ye who inhabit the dwellings that have been consecrated to the Lord your God, my spirit is grieved with the crooked and deceitful workings of souls in striving to cover from mine eyes and hide from my chosen witnesses secret abominations and willful transgressions of my holy & sacred Laws

Therefore is the word of the Lord unto you O ye children of Zion in great plainness and solemn

warnings, to the deceitful and disobedient; for to such the mercy of God will have an end

For with an eye of care and watchfulness I look upon my Zion and it is with grief when I behold souls therein that are not mine own of my pure and very own flock who have not made their garments pressly clean but who have clothed themselves in garments false in which they seek to deceive my chosen watchman,

and pass along from day to day, from week to week and from year to year in falsehood and disguise.

But unto all who have heard this my Holy Law and give heed thereto well shall it be for you in the days of my Mighty Judgments which are sure to meet the wicked.

I will hold you in the hollow of my hand and ye shall receive that blessing and

power which shall heal you of all your wounds and comfort you and enable you to feel deep tribulation for other souls yet bound in sin

Yea and at the final settlement with the soul ye shall receive the blessing sentence

"Well done good and faithful servant, thou hast been true and faithful here in time enter thou into the joys of eternal peace and rest"

Vern Lebanon
Dec 11th 1859